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ON THE USE AND ABUSE OF MEDICINE.

By Marcus C. Buck, M.D.

[Read before the National Institute for the Promotion of Science, at the June Meeting, 1844, and communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THE occasion must not be lost to me, of expressing the earnest conviction of my mind upon a subject so intimately connected with the interests of mankind, as that which is treated of in an essay lately read before the Institute by my friend, Dr. Van Buren. I cannot hesitate one moment to throw myself upon the patience of the Institute, and beg them to grant me a hearing. My apology must be attributable to that common emotion of the human heart, which induces us to combat what we believe to be error, or to lend assistance to any single thought that may, in the end, redound to the benefit of mankind, and lessen the powers of that foe of our kind—the silent and powerful principle of death.

A paper has been read to a learned body, by one well calculated, from his character and attainments in his profession, to impart force to his opinions, which are striking from their boldness, and must be important from their effects: he has reaped the wisdom of European experience; and, seemingly, not content with the weight of personal influence, he invokes the dignity and novel solemnity of a literary convention to stamp these opinions with the seal of scientific approbation.

Many interesting papers connected with astronomy, meteorology, geology, philosophy, and other sciences, have been read before the Convention, and we were highly entertained by many ingenious and novel theories and experiments; fortunately theories and experiments on these subjects rarely, if ever, produce much injury, generally much good. We cannot derange the action of the stars, for they move on in that eternal harmony which is supposed to constitute the music of the divine abodes. We cannot stay the flight of comets, though we may satisfy the curious mind, or assuage the public fear, by our positive knowledge of the flight of these eccentric bodies. The investigations of Cuvier tend to instruct the profound thinker and lead him on, strata per strata, from the earth to Heaven, as by steps, to the knowledge of this ball on which we tread; and the investigations of the ethical thinker will not derange the state of stocks, nor militate against the physical comfort of the world. These branches of science are, with reference to the actual, bodily condition of

mankind—to man as he is—the comfort-seeking animal, the fearing, the hoping, the masticating and digesting animal—matters of mere speculation.

Neither Herschel, Arago, nor all the astronomers that ever lived, notwithstanding their theories and important discoveries in science, could cause our earth or any of the planets to be drawn into the vortex of the sun one instant sooner than the time appointed by the Almighty Ruler of the Universe, under whose control—

“Orb wheels in orb, round centres, centres roll,”
And form, self-balanced, one revolving whole.

Nor could they, by all the powers of their gigantic minds, aided by science and the most improved instruments, extract from the sun, and all the heavenly bodies, heat sufficient “to set the Potomac on fire.” Nor could our own philosophic and scientific Espy, if so disposed, create a water spout, much less a deluge. No! None are equal to the production of such results but that Omnipotent Power “which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble.” “Which commandeth the sun and it riseth not, and sealeth up the stars.” “Which alone spreadeth out the heavens and treadeth upon the waves of the sea.”*

I wish I could say that theories and speculations in medicine were equally harmless in their effects. In this science—paramount in importance to any that the wisdom of ages has cultivated—the rash tyro can equal, in destructiveness, the mail-clad knights of romance; and too often the deadly weapons are furnished by men of science themselves.

This, not entirely new, but, I think, dangerous practice of giving immense doses of quinine—eighty grains in some instances, which is about eighty times the usual dose †—is sent forth to the world, in this paper, in the most imposing form. Emanating from the Surgeon General’s office, it is calculated to obtain all the influence which that high authority could give it; read before the National Institute and the distinguished savans of our country, it acquires a factitious importance which has rarely been given to any medical theory or practice.

Here permit me to observe that I entertain much respect for the author of the essay alluded to. Our relations are most friendly. I have found him a social, well read and well travelled gentleman. For the Surgeon General, I feel, not only respect, but that peculiar friendship which the perils and excitement of war and a camp life beget. We long stood next to each other on the Army register, having been appointed surgeons about the same time; we have stood side by side, in attempting to parry the strokes of the last enemy, before whom Osceola (to whom the world is somewhat indebted for this bold practice), Tiger Tail, Black Hawk and all heroes, be they savage or civilized, have, or must quail. I regret that I have not advanced “*pari passu*” with the Surgeon General, who is no

* Since this was written, I have witnessed the beautiful experiments of the ingenious and indefatigable Colt, who gave an imitation of a water spout; but how inferior was it in grandeur and sublimity to one of nature’s creation! it was as the tiny cascade of a mountain brook, compared to the awful sublimity of the Niagara.

† Twelve grains of quinine are about equal to an ounce of good bark; as a tonic, a grain may be given three times a day. (Amer. Dispensatory.)

less distinguished as a combatant than as a medical officer; has himself commanded a regiment with as much ability as he has managed his hospitals; while I never commanded more than a corporal's guard, nor ever drilled any other soldiers than my convalescents, or the wooden representatives of men. Therefore, I cannot intend any disrespect towards such friends. For this popular and scientific Institution, most of whose resident members and many of the corresponding members are my friends, I have too much respect to indulge in indecorous personalities towards the contributors to science.

In the remarks which I may submit, I have no ulterior object to accomplish, save the good of my fellow men, by the correction of what, I apprehend, may turn out an error, though that error be the result of a daring and intrepid impulse of investigating genius. I feel the incitement of an early enthusiasm, in behalf of this theme. The studies of my youth, the experience of my manhood, each contribute their share of emphasis to my desires, and I feel as well an inclination as a duty to exert whatever of thought or experience I may possess, to a proper understanding of so important and interesting a subject. It is too late for me to become a laborer in the field of science, with the expectation or hope of acquiring honor or profit from it. Yet I delight to witness the results of the labors of others, and never, when practicable, neglect a good opportunity of doing so. If our young literary scions would bask more in the sunshine of science, they would soon bud, expand and bear blossoms of full growth, which would stand forth, in the scientific world, as our far-famed, magnificent magnolia blossom does in the forest, and would ultimately enrich our Institute with the golden fruit of science, which would "promote the diffusion of knowledge amongst men."

I have, Sir, witnessed the rise and downfall of many theories and systems. I remember when the medical profession of our country, imbued with the principles of the great and lamented Rush, went forth, lancet in hand, to shed blood. There was scarcely a disease, in those days, which did not seem to indicate the necessity of using it, and oceans of blood were poured out, to the great abuse of his theories and practice. I remember a later period, when the lancet was almost abandoned, and a lurking typhus was detected in almost every pulse. The discriminating, observant Rush theorized and practised upon his system successfully; he bled freely when it was necessary, and, generally, abstained from bleeding when it was not indicated. "Extremes are dangerous," even in relation to correct principles.

I remember when calomel was administered in almost all diseases; I have known it measured by spoonsful instead of being weighed by grains, and few practitioners, in those days, would "scruple at drachms." I have known a later period, when the disciples of Broussais would have annihilated mercury, considering it pernicious in any form or dose. I remember when cold water was banished from the fever wards, as highly pernicious. I know that it has subsequently been considered indispensable, both internally and externally: infusion, affusion and ablution were then the rage. O shade of Curry, how has thy system been abused! I

remember to have seen prescriptions of homœopathists ; the hundredth or thousandth part of a grain of calomel or other mineral, is with them considered a large dose. I have also seen the prescriptions of those who consider the stomach a vast reservoir, into which doses of any kind may be thrown, provided water in sufficient quantities can also be introduced ; gallons, yea hogsheads of water have been swilled, by these hapless patients of water doctors.

I know when the French physicians relied, in the treatment of fevers—even that hydra-yellow fever—upon ptisans, enemata and other equally inert remedies. But they have since ventured to administer enormous doses of quinine—I will not say that they have gone as far as our Florida surgeons have done, but they have gone far enough, in all conscience.

I might go on, almost *ad infinitum*, and trace back the rise and downfall of systems and theories of medicine, from the present period to the days of Hippocrates or Æsculapius. Many of them have been long since entombed, but ever and anon, the sepulchre is desecrated, and they are dragged forth in their naked deformity and placed before the world as perfect creations of a new Apollo. Can all these systems and theories be true? Impossible. Yet each had its advocates and votaries, as zealous as those who espouse the present systems. And from each, the careful collator of information may derive important lessons.

I had the honor of being a pupil of Rush, and was thoroughly convinced of the truth of many of his theories ; but whether from timidity, or a less confiding disposition, I did not push the practice to extremes, believing in the maxim, "*in medio, tutissimum ibes.*" It is but justice to this eminent father of American medical science, that I should here say, that to him may be traced, either directly or indirectly, the origin of many of the most approved treatises on pathology, &c., now circulated in Europe. Had Rush never lived, Armstrong and other professed discoverers in the science of medicine would never have emerged from obscurity in their profession. "Who reads an American book?" is asked by the dictators in literature in Europe ; while they are purloining from Americans many of their most important principles and discoveries. Rush, Physick, and many other Americans, have been derided by those who have stolen and endeavored to appropriate their discoveries.

From Rush, I, too, learned the use of Peruvian bark in doses sufficient to make a decided impression upon the system, whenever its use was clearly indicated. And when I found other practitioners complain of its want of efficiency, I found that they used either bad bark or minimum doses. I have ever found it, when properly used, a most efficient remedial agent. The discovery of quinine, I consider an epoch in medicine, as we have, in it, the properties of Peruvian bark in a concentrated form. It should also be used in sufficient doses. But what are sufficient doses? If we find that grain doses judiciously administered hourly, will, in a single day, cut short violent intermittents and other periodical diseases, would we not say that two or three times that quantity would usually be more than sufficient? Would we think it necessary to give eighty, forty, or

even twenty times that number of grains? I have known two or three drachms of opium to be chewed, by a person unaccustomed to its use, without its producing death; I have known a vial of laudanum swallowed with equal impunity. Indeed, I have known accidental cures of the severest diseases by the use of excessive doses of opium, taken to cut short the thread of life, which intense pain had rendered a burthen.* I knew a tumbler of milk, into which a teaspoonful of arsenic had been thrown, to be swallowed by a lady without serious injury. But shall we say that opium and arsenic in such doses are not poisonous? We know that they are, and that deaths occur, daily, from the use of much smaller doses. I know an instance in which a mother and child, considered incurable, the one from hysteria epileptica, the other from rickets, were both radically cured by being made dead drunk from whiskey which the former stole from a spirit cellar. This came under my immediate observation, when I was a youth at school, and I really believe it had some effect in directing my thoughts to the study of the arduous profession of medicine. I thought that inebriety was a panacea suited to all diseases, at least those of a chronic character. But when I came to study the profession, to see the wonderful mechanism of the bones, muscles, &c., the delicate interweaving of fibres, tissues, nerves and bloodvessels, I was lost in amazement and admiration, and instead of considering it safe to attempt the cure of disease by intoxication, I wondered that any person should ever recover, after the violent interruption which intoxication produces in the important functions of these organs. I wonder not that the lesions and injuries, described by our fellow member Dr. Sewall (though I have never met with them), should occur from the use of alcohol.

Who would make general use of such a remedy? I have known eight or ten grains of corrosive sublimate, given by a quack, to produce the most astonishing vernifuge action upon a patient, by which she was entirely relieved and the reputation of the quack established. Of the number killed by such practice, we have no record: "dead men tell no tales." Could we "call up spirits from the vasty deep," and array before you the shades of those who have fallen by the hands of empirics, by the rash practice of men of science, and the hasty adoption of false systems, you would see a host equal in number to the victims of "plague, pestilence and famine." I mean not to say, that in extreme cases, larger doses of quinine than that I have mentioned may not be used. But why resort to them unless "in extremis"? The sledge hammer, at a stroke, drives home the nail which requires oft-repeated blows from the hand hammer. When used on the knotty oak, the stroke may do no injury; but could you apply the same tool to the delicate pine and cedar, without injury? Might not even the oak itself be injured by it?

[To be concluded in next No.]

* One case only, I will mention. J. H., Esq., of Virginia, a wealthy gentleman, had a hernia, which became strangulated and could not be reduced; in great agony from pain, during the absence of his physician, he determined to obtain ease at the cost of his life. He swallowed a very large dose of laudanum, under the influence of which he slept many hours, and on being aroused, he found the pain entirely relieved and the strangulation removed. He lived to enjoy his ample estate, and to bless his most amiable family for many years afterwards.

ON THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC DISEASES.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—The object of the following strictures is to bespeak the attention of your readers to the expediency and duty of a more assiduous cultivation, among our members, of the TREATMENT OF CHRONIC DISEASES. Those readers may be startled at the unlimited extent of the subject chosen; and may wonder that I should attempt to discuss, in a weekly sheet, what might well demand a volume.

It is pleasant to ponder the details of rare cases, the successful results of bold and novel practice in acute diseases, and the variety of contributions to our journals. But it has often appeared to me that, in proportion to the amount of business in the treatment of sub-acute diseases, devolving on every respectable practitioner, there is far less said in our public journals than the subject requires. And this might be expected, for several reasons. 1st. The process of cure is usually so slow and protracted, and the convalescence so gradual, that the practitioner feels little stimulus to publish to his brethren the various steps. How different from the agreeable and exulting feelings produced by rescuing a patient from imminent and certain death by some surgical operation, as, for instance, tracheotomy, or by some bold and heroic process of medication. 2nd. To the routine practitioner it would be almost impossible to recall the steps of the course and collect them for publication. There is a sad defect among us in the construction and completion of a *plan*, as each case presents itself, utterly to remove from the constitution the complaints of the individual. But, 3dly, the great obstacle to furnishing the treatment of these complaints to the journals, is, the humiliating success that attends the efforts of us all.

The following is, far too often, the outline of the administration of medicines, among those who are engaged in miscellaneous, surgical, medical and obstetrical practice. Seated by the patient, the physician proceeds with the investigation in a methodical and correct manner, and arrives fairly at his conclusions as to the nature and seat of the disease. He sees a way to conduct the invalid out of the painful, perhaps dangerous dilemma, and very laudably resolves and determines that, by his discernment and fidelity, he will add another to his trophies, by the complete restoration of the applicant. Before leaving, the course is fully decided on, communicated and explained to the patient and friends, and the proper commencement made. As he proceeds on his daily rounds he reviews the whole case, pronounces anxiously on his own doings, and feels no manner of doubt, that in some few days, he shall be impatient to call again and witness the effects of his plan and correct any misapprehension or unfavorable operation of the remedies.

But, in the course of these few days, what has taken place? Why, he has been called to this case of quinsy, this obstetrical case, that broken limb, and watched, night and day, over some dangerous attack on the life of a fellow citizen. At length a sense of duty, or, frequently, a second message, summons him to a renewed consideration of the patient with

chronic disease. But many parts of the distinct group of symptoms, which interested him so much at first, have been thrust from his memory by the exigencies of the preceding week. "What were his prominent complaints? What his peculiarities? I recollect those pills—but the drops—the adjuvants—what were they? And the diet and regimen—what did I say of them?" Instead of the glowing interest he felt on leaving the patient, he experiences almost a repugnance to the investigation. He reconnoitres the ground with cautious ambiguity, in making his inquiries, for fear he shall wound his invalid friend by an appearance of forgetfulness and want of interest in the case. At length he has fished out a good portion of what he learnt on the first visit, gained some new views of the case, and completed his *methodum medendi* for another professional interval.

Let me inquire, at this spot, what are the practitioner's intentions and expectations? Has he, even now, any distinct conceptions of the amount of time, remedies, and attendance, that will be required to restore this patient to entire health, should he prove successful? Does he realize that a long, protracted disease requires a protracted application of remedies to subvert it and re-establish the processes of health in the animal economy? Has he apprised the patient that he cannot expel the enemy from the system by any sudden onslaught, and that, if he ever recovers, it must be a work of time and perseverance?

But this case is not quite finished. The invalid, instead of recovering, may remain stationary, if not declining. After some six or eight calls, and, perhaps, nearly as many changes of medication, the physician cannot but feel some doubts of success, which is perhaps perceived by the patient. In asking himself what he shall next do, he looks back on the course and wishes—vainly wishes—he could recollect what he has heretofore prescribed. He has had hopes at times and expressed them, for the success of his plan; but still, the patient is not essentially better. Now, without stopping to speculate on the various probabilities that the doctor will hear of his patient's having gone over to the nostrum-mongers, the quacks, the steamers—or, perhaps, to some rival—let me propose, before proceeding any further, a line of proceeding which will greatly assist, in my estimation, the physician, in the whole treatment of chronic diseases. I beg to be pardoned for proposing it to *all*; not to the busy and popular only, but to those who have as yet but limited employment. Let every man who would contribute to rescue his neighbors and employers from the afflictions of unskilled and reckless pretenders, resolve on four things and faithfully execute them.

1st. To cultivate more taste and faithfulness in the treatment of chronic diseases. 2d. Never to proceed with the incipient steps till a candid and labored estimate is made of the cause of the complaint, and the length of time to complete the recovery. 3d. Most conscientiously to maintain unimpaired faithfulness and attention to the end. 4th. Above all—procure a manuscript blank volume, say of two quires quarto, for a Case Book, in which, either at the time the patient calls at the office, or, if abroad, before retiring to rest the same day, the whole case and prescription shall be recorded.

This last proposal, of the Case Book, I beg leave earnestly to urge upon my brethren who have not as yet adopted the plan. They will find it beneficial to themselves, to say nothing of their employers, beyond all their expectations; and every year will add to its value. While in Hartford, I knew a man who had, literally, no professional preparation whatever, who, by gradual and careful observations on diseases of a chronic nature, including cancers, almost of course, obtained employment in some of the best families in the city, and really obtained a considerable degree of skill. I had no acquaintance with him, except simply saluting him occasionally in the barber's shop; but I was told he had not a single surpassing characteristic except untiring assiduity in the treatment of chronic invalids. Now, if this mediocre man, beginning medicine late in life, and without any knowledge of the profession, could acquire, in this retired and back-handed manner, such an amount of business and confidence, are there not many within the ranks, with the unspeakable advantages of professional acquirements, who should become distinguished in the cure of these disorders?

But the desire to increase the respectability and usefulness of the medical profession, and to preserve to them their legitimate honors, rewards and support, is not my only object. To prevent their employers and neighbors from falling into the snares of mercenary harpies, and reckless, hardened homicides, is motive high enough to enlist all their exertions and ambition. Why, Mr. Editor, it is hardly a week since a woman was consigned to the grave in this village, whose breast was literally torn off, after the agonies of an arsenic plaster, by a hook! Think of that, Sir, a hook: so the fellow himself declared before the inquest held in Troy, where the butchery was perpetrated. And the cavity left, after the gland was haggled out, was found by the physicians to be 8 by 10½ inches!

But I forbear. This very disease, hopeless as it is, deserves individual establishments—specialties—for its treatment. I know of several surgeons who are especially devoted to this disease and its kindred affections, and have not lost cast with the profession. Within a few years to come this formidable enemy may be disarmed of its fatality and its terrors, and some Jenner in our ranks should be the discoverer.

Before closing, permit me to say to many of your readers, that, in parting with their patients, whom they have kindly commended to my care while here, I have urged them to look with kindness and indulgence on the proneness of their family physician to neglect chronic diseases. I have endeavored to persuade them that, if their own friends or themselves were dangerously sick, they, themselves, would insist on the prompt and continued attendance of the physician, even to the neglect of more ordinary cases. I have endeavored to exact a pledge from them to say to their physician, that they would not excuse their prolonged care and watch, but should insist on not being jostled out of their professional consideration and attention.

Very truly yours, M. L. NORTH.

Saratoga Springs, April 2, 1845.

[To be continued.]

REMARKS ON PURPURA—WITH A CASE SUCCESSFULLY TREATED
WITH THE IODIDE OF POTASSIUM.

By S. B. Phillips, M.D., New York.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

PURPURA, according to nosological classification, is a genus of disease, which is divided into several distinct species, as, *P. simplex*, *P. hemorrhagica*, *P. urticans*, &c.—though, perhaps, it is more proper to consider these species as one identical disease, presenting different phases in its development, depending on the diathesis and constitution of the patient, which tend either to promote or retard its progress. For it is not uncommon to see what is denominated *P. simplex*, terminating in some of the other species, in consequence of the effects of remedial agents solely; or by the influence of concomitant circumstances. The different species of this disease should be contemplated rather as stages, presenting appearances, which depend on the time of its continuance; or more especially, on the *acting and counteracting causes*; as it frequently commences, in its worst form, in consequence of the activity of the predisposing and exciting causes.

The phenomena presented by this disease, are, usually, small red or purple spots, termed *stigmata*, or *petechia*; or large ones, of a crimson or purple color, formed as the disease advances, by a coalescence of the *stigmata*, called *ecchymoses*, or *vibices*. These appear first on the extremities, then on the body; the hands and face being generally free. They are persistent under pressure, of a circular form, with irregular edges. The cuticle upon them is smooth, and sometimes slightly elevated, containing bloody serum underneath. Many of them disappear after several days, and are succeeded by others of a similar character. These maculae are sometimes distinct, at other times somewhat confluent; sometimes uniformly distributed over the surface, in other cases occurring in irregular clusters. They are caused by an enlargement of the capillaries, followed by a sub-cuticular extravasation of blood. They are not attended by any peculiar sensation.

These patches occur also on the mucous membranes, lining the internal organs, as the mouth, lungs, intestines, vagina, and uterus—in these places they are raised, and papulated, often giving rise to dangerous and fatal hemorrhage. Generally, however, the hemorrhage is moderate, spontaneously ceasing, and occurring at intervals, again and again, till great exhaustion or death ensues. At other times, there is a constant, though gradual oozing of blood. The immediate cause of death, frequently, is copious hemorrhage from some internal organ, as the stomach, lungs, intestines, or even the uterus, in advanced life. In protracted cases, extreme debility, emaciation, anasarcaous tumefaction, commencing in the lower extremities, supervene.

The constitutional symptoms of this disease, present little uniformity. In some cases, the appearance of the spots is preceded by lassitude, debility, and vague and erratic pains in the limbs; though, when the disease is fully developed, depression of spirits and languor usually attend. In other cases, the disease occurs without any marked premonitory symptoms.

Febrile paroxysms occasionally occur, but are by no means constant; and rarely preceding the appearance of the spots on the skin. There is great diversity of pulse, in different cases. The skin is sometimes above, and sometimes below the natural temperature. Cough, oppressed respiration, pain in the left breast or side, uneasiness in the stomach, fullness and weight in the hypochondrium, sometimes precede and accompany the hemorrhagic affection. Neither age nor sex is exempt from its attack. It continues from a few weeks to many months.

Conflicting opinions have been entertained relative to the pathology of this disease, some referring it to a phlogistic state of the system, while others have attributed it to debility. But he who observes many cases of this disease, must be convinced of its asthenic character, whatever be the temperament and diathesis of the patient. That the disease is sometimes complicated by accidental congestion, or inflammation of internal organs, there is no doubt; yet these are the effect of the disease, rather than the cause, for they occur after the hemorrhagic affection becomes apparent. It is equally true, that petechiæ and vibices, resembling those in purpura, appear in some cases of high febrile action; but in these cases they are never observed, till great prostration and exhaustion of the powers of the system supervene, and a state of debility is established, resulting from previous excitement.

In every case of purpura, whatever may be the temperament, or constitution of the patient, there is always a *dyscrasia* of the system, obviously apparent. The blood and the parenchymatous tissues in most cases possess but little coherence; the former does not separate into crassamentum and serum, if observed after the disease is developed, though it may at its invasion, but forms a jelly-like mass, mingled with a turbid lymph, or is in an uncommon fluid state. After death, the internal cavities are often found to contain a dark fluid, resembling blood, or a bloody serum. The tissues of the internal organs possess but little tenacity, and are easily broken down.

The mode of its invasion, and the pathological condition of the blood, are beautifully described by an American author in the following language. He says, "To me it seems probable that this affection has a considerable latent period before it manifests itself by external symptoms; that primary disorder of the assimilating functions deranges the healthy constitution of the blood; and, finally, that the blood thus deteriorated or changed, being no longer possessed of its healthy relations with the organic sensibility of the capillary vessels, causes these to suffer its ready transmission and extravasation."

The treatment usually adopted, includes bleeding, purgatives, acids, tonics, oil of turpentine, &c., under which it is often uncontrollable, proceeding to a fatal termination.

The following case may not be uninteresting to those who occasionally meet with cases of this disease.

In June, 1844, I was called to see Mr. ———, æt. 30. He was of sedentary habits, a sanguineous temperament, a florid complexion, and apparently somewhat irregular in his mode of living—taking dif-

fusible stimuli occasionally, but not to great excess. He complained of a deep-seated pain in the left side, a loss of appetite, languor and weakness; there was want of energy, obtuseness of the mental faculties, and evidently a sluggishness in the performance of the functions generally. The tongue was covered with a dark-yellow, slimy coat, digestion was disordered. The pulse rather above the normal standard, as to force and frequency; temperature of the surface but little exalted; he had been ill several days. The upper and lower extremities, and trunk, were covered with deep scarlet-colored patches, of different dimensions, distinct, and irregularly distributed on the surface.

The universal tendency of this disease to a depression of the vital powers and functions, excluded from my mind the use of the lancet, though the diathesis was unequivocally febrile. After carefully investigating the symptoms and condition of the patient, and the known tendency of the disease to exhaust the vital powers, I determined, if possible, to ameliorate the condition of the digestive organs, and then to administer some tonic, if the febrile condition should be diminished by the use of laxatives and an antiphlogistic regimen. To accomplish the first object, I ordered the following pills. *R. Massæ ex hydrargyro, 3j.; pulvis radices rhei, 3 iss.; syrupi simplicis, q. s. Misce, et fiat massæ, in pilulas triginta dividenda.* One of these to be taken morning, noon and night, with a liquid diet.

After five days the tongue presented a more healthy aspect, there was less fulness and frequency of the pulse, the maculæ on the surface changed to a livid hue, and became more extensive, debility increased. The necessity of a tonic became obvious. From the effects of the iodide of potassium in other diseases, its undoubted tonic powers, and its reputed power of exciting the absorbents in some cases—though I had no knowledge of any case of *purpura*, in the treatment of which, it had been used—I resolved to exhibit it in this case and carefully to observe its effects. Therefore the following solution was directed. *R. Potassii iodidi, 3 ij.; aquæ destillatæ, 3 ij. Liqua.* One half of a drachm of this solution was given three times a day. The pills were continued, one in the morning, and one in the evening, for several days more. The spots remained stationary for about a week, after which, they presented a yellowish appearance, changing gradually, till about three weeks after using the solution, they had mostly disappeared. A nourishing diet was allowed, as digestion improved.

The effects of the iodide were most *striking* and *satisfactory*, in conjunction with purgation, in this case, the only one of this kind in which I have used it. Perhaps it may not prove so decidedly beneficial in other cases; yet from the *charming* effect it produced on the disease, I am induced *strongly* to commend its use to others, in like cases.

From the succinct account here given of this case, those who differ from the writer, in their views of the pathology of the disease, may be led to infer, that the alterative effect of the mercury was the primeval cause of the removal of the disease; this I shall not here deny; nor is it pretended, that a fact is established, by this individual case; the object in

reporting it being solely to present a remedy (if it prove to be one) for this frequently fatal disease, which, it is believed, has never heretofore been presented, to the minds of those who may be disposed to *experiment* with it in cases of purpura.

It may be proper to state *some* of the reasons which directed my mind to the conclusion, that the effects of the remedy were most salutary in this case. After the use of the pills for several days, and before administering the solution, every symptom of the disease was decidedly worse, except that the tongue appeared somewhat better, and there was rather less febrile action in the system; yet the marked increase of languor and debility, the unhealthy appearance and lividity presented by the extravasations, which were coalescing, and thereby increasing, betokened the rapid progress the disease was making towards hemorrhage, till it was apparently arrested by the remedial agent, in the form of a hydriodate. The fact that the tongue presented a more favorable aspect was, no doubt, effected by the mercurial laxative; but the diminished febrile action *might* have depended upon the more exhausted action of the vital powers, and consequent debility, which was, probably, increased, rather than diminished, by purgation—if so, then manifestly by the pills alone no cure could have resulted, but the vital powers would have been more and more depressed; and the disease must have terminated in a fatal hemorrhagic action.

Though the brief and imperfect statement of this case may not lead any to this conclusion, I think a careful observation of the progress of the disease, as it developed itself, would have convinced the most skeptical, that it was controlled by the iodide of potassium, as if by incantation.

Speculation may be indulged, skepticism and credulity brought into exercise, and those, disposed to cavil, manifest their powers; still facts and their relations must be the foundation of all useful medical knowledge: and, if any hint be afforded by the relation of the preceding case, which shall lead to the establishing of a single *fact* relative to the therapeutic properties of the iodide of potassium—that is, whether it be *remedial* or *pernicious* in purpura—then the design in presenting it will be fully accomplished.

HARTFORD COUNTY (CONN.) MEDICAL CONVENTION.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—The following notice of the proceedings of the Hartford County Medical Society, which held its annual meeting at Hartford on the 10th inst., is forwarded to you for publication, should it meet your approval.

The meeting was organized by the appointment of David S. Dodge, M.D., Chairman, and E. K. Hunt, M.D., Clerk. Business of a somewhat local and miscellaneous character having been disposed of, the attention of the Society was called to the dissertation on *Insanity*, which was prepared, by previous appointment, and read by S. B. Fuller, M.D., of Hartford. While there was nothing particularly novel or striking in

this production, it presented a clear, sensible and practical view of this important subject; both with respect to the nature, causes and treatment of this malady, which all, who are conversant with the subject, deem it important for the mass of the profession more fully to understand. The excitement often connected with its early stage, and the constipation which is not unfrequently a feature also of this disease, are likely to be regarded as satisfactory evidence of the propriety and even necessity of depletion, both by bleeding and purgatives; the results of which treatment indicating but too conclusively its fatal tendency. This point was commended to the special notice of the members, and can scarcely fail to result in good.

A variety of happy examples, illustrative of the effects of morbid action in remote parts, re-acting upon the brain, and through it upon the mind, which his own and the observation of his father had furnished, were read; and the symptoms and treatment which characterize and are adapted to the mental disturbance depending upon this state of the system, contrasted with that which follows inflammatory action of the encephalon; from which, by the way, it is not always distinguished. Indeed, the annual reports of our asylums for the insane, show that it is not very unusual for patients to be presented for admission, whose delirium depends upon inflammation of the meninges of the brain, and only needed, at the outset, bold and decisive depletion by bleedings, both local and general, together with free purgation and complete repose, to ensure a recovery, which at the period of presentation can hardly be anticipated.

Another paper was also prepared by H. A. Grant, M.D., of Hartford, entitled, "Observations on the Zoosperm, and the fluids which are obnoxious to its existence as a cause of sterility." In the absence of Dr. Grant, his dissertation was read by one of the members.

It appears that when residing in Paris, during the year 1839-40, the doctor, in company with several other medical gentlemen, instituted a series of experiments, upon the animalculæ existing in the spermatic fluid of the dog, ass and man. In the course of their experiments they found that a fluid, which was more than very slightly acid or alkaline, would immediately destroy these little animals; the latter producing violent and convulsive contractions, while the former instantaneously annihilated nervous energy and destroyed the life of the animal. After establishing this fact, they proceeded to institute experiments upon the vaginal and uterine fluids of the female. Their subjects, in the language of the doctor, were, "virgins, women who had borne children, and those who had not." In every case they found the uterine mucus *alkaline*, while the vaginal produced an *acid* re-action. On placing the zoosperms in these fluids respectively, whenever they were found to die speedily—as in some cases they did—the alkalinity or acidity of the fluid in which they were placed, was found, by tests, to present a decisive re-action, so much so as to satisfy the minds of these gentlemen that an excess of one or the other of these agents was the cause of their destruction.

. From the above considerations, the doctor concluded that in certain cases of sterility, an unnatural condition of the vaginal or uterine fluid, by

destroying the life of the zoosperm, may be regarded as the cause of sterility. He therefore suggests whether, by modifying the state of the system, whenever it appears probable that one or the other of these principles may prevail, it may not result in so changing the character of the fluids in which these little beings, which play so important a part in the phenomena of reproduction, at first find a resting place, as to secure an object which is oftentimes sought for with anxious solicitude.

The view of which I give you a synopsis, took us somewhat by surprise, and while we were ready to admit the plausibility of the reasoning and the ingenuity of the experiments, as well as the interesting nature of the subject, no one was able to say aught, from his own observation or experience, calculated either to sustain or refute the position assumed by Dr. Grant.

The Society gladly presented their thanks to the gentlemen who had so highly interested and instructed them by their learned dissertations.

A resolution expressive of the respect of the members for the memory of one of our number—the late Dr. Timothy Hall, of East Hartford, long known as an active, skilful and philanthropic physician—who has gone to his rest since our last annual meeting, and an unfeigned sympathy for his bereaved family, was offered and unanimously passed.

I would add, in closing, that the proceedings of both our State and County Societies, have not been characterized by that degree of interest and zeal which ought ever to appear prominent in such bodies. Members have appeared to come together, more for the sake of their per diem, and to get a little relief from the monotony of professional duties, than to interchange views on topics of importance, and which greatly and immediately interest us all.

One who could set up some rallying point around which we should hasten to gather, and which should appear to be worth the pains which it now costs to maintain our organization, &c., would confer on the profession in this State, I am persuaded, an invaluable service.

Hartford, Conn., April 12th, 1845.

NEW ERA IN MEDICINE—TRUTHS ESTABLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

MOP.—“Pray now, buy some: I love a ballad in print, a’ life; for then we are sure they are true.

ANT.—Here’s one to a very doleful tune. How an usurer’s wife was brought to bed of twenty money bags at a burden; and how she longed to eat adders’ heads, and toads carbonadoed.

MOP.—Is it true, do you think?

ANT.—Very true, and but a month old.

MOP.—Bless me from marrying a usurer!

ANT.—Here’s the midwife’s name to’t, one mistress Taleporter: and five or six honest wives that were present: why should I carry lies abroad?

MOP.—Pray you now, buy it.”—*Winter’s Tale.*

There is always something to mark an era; something that gives a general character to the actors, or to the deeds performed. This is made

very apparent in civil and political history—and in that of science it is no less true. As far as the arts are concerned, the present might be, perhaps, justly called the era of steam power—but with regard to medical philosophy, I believe we might with much propriety concisely dub it the *era of certification*. Time was, when a proposition, to be established, had to be proved true by its internal evidence and its external relations—now, the verification by proof is dispensed with, and truth is revealed and supported solely by testimony. Common sense is looked upon as a common liar; and Reason, reviled and excommunicated, sees her place filled by the preponderating spirit of mysticism. So long as the manifestation of this fact was confined to the unprofessional and illiterate—while, for example, the theme was the healing properties of some Indian balsam, the divine qualities of which were attested by John Nokes, of Texas, Judge This, or the Rev. That—we did not feel ourselves called upon to take any particular notice of the subject. In fact, we felt ourselves at liberty, like quiet citizens, to quietly disbelieve and say nothing about it; not thinking that ere long, we should be called upon to believe in the general proposition that, that which *was* true, *is* false—and that the sun of truth is only on the meridian at midnight, on the not to be doubted asseveration of scientific testimony. It is pleasant thus to be provided with things to wonder at, and at the same time to be relieved from the labor of investigation; and it is cheering, too, to anticipate the time when human knowledge will comprise so many wonders; when, in fact, knowledge will be little else than wonder. I am gratified that our profession is at last taking the lead in this new mode of philosophizing, as appears by the fact of some of its prominent members lending the sanction of their presence and names to the support of that, which, during a former and therefore benighted era, common sense would have rejected, and reason condemned.

I have been induced, Mr. Editor, thus to express my high gratification in the existence of this new state of things, by the remarkable communication of Dr. Doane, of the "surprising," "very astonishing," and "singular" case of tumor removed during "*magnetic sleep*" by Dr. Bodinier, published in the Journal Vol. XXXI., No. 26. As Drs. Francis, Mott, J. K. Rogers, Delafield, R. Nelson and Taylor were present and non-dissenting, we are required to consider them as giving testimony corroborative of Dr. Doane's; and as we are *forbid* entertaining any "*suspicion of collusion*," by the "*high character* of Dr. Bodinier," I consider the thing as established beyond all peradventure. With such authority I would believe anything—if sufficiently unreasonable; though I regret the being *forbid* to *suspect*, as it deprives me of an opportunity for the exercise of charity, one of the brightest of the christian virtues, and which this case would have been so eminently calculated to call into action. "Charity believeth all things, and is kind." O.

New York, April 15th, 1845.

 THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

 BOSTON, APRIL 23, 1845.

Principles and Practice of Dental Surgery.—It is creditable to the press of this country, to bring out a book like this—a large octavo, of six hundred pages, on such paper, and in such a type as all standard works of science should appear in.

This second edition is now given, of a treatise presumed to be familiar to all regularly educated dentists, revised, modified and greatly enlarged, and illustrated by sixty-nine wood engravings.

Notwithstanding the existence of an almost standing army of dentists, in the United States, increasing, too, at a rate that must be alarming to themselves, how little has been written either on the art or science of this very important profession. How extraordinary it is, too, that people of understanding, who appreciate the value of good qualifications in other affairs of life, submit, with all imaginable complacency, to be operated upon by all sorts of dental bunglers, apparently regardless of the fact that bad work is always the dearest, and cheap dentistry amazingly costly.

The author of this beautiful volume, which must naturally give him a very prominent place, as authority, has really produced something that will transmit his name, with honor, to coming times. Even as a literary performance, it is entitled to a high rank. Dr. Chapin A. Harris, to whom we are indebted for the work, is Professor of Practical Dentistry and Dental Pathology in the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery; and he has here given us the results of his extensive practice and observation.

Part I. treats of the anatomy of the mouth; organs of mastication; active organs of mastication; organs of salivation, of deglutition; blood-vessels of the mouth; nerves of the mouth; origin and formation of the teeth; first dentition; irregularity of the teeth; peculiarities in their formation and growth; osseous union of them, and third set. Part II. Physical characteristics; physical character of the gums; of salivary calculus; of the fluids of the mouth; of the lips and tongue. Part III. embraces diseases of the teeth; caries; treatment of caries; toothache; extraction; atrophy of teeth; necrosis; spina ventosa; denuding process; spontaneous abrasion; fractures of the teeth by mechanical violence; fungous growth of the pulp. Part IV. Salivary calculus; diseases of the gums; preternatural prurient growth of the gums; ulcerations; tumors and excrescences of the gums and alveolar processes; alveolar abscess; exfoliation, &c. Part V. regards diseases of the maxillary sinus; inflammation of the lining membrane; abscess, &c. Part VI. Mechanical dentistry, in eight instructive chapters.

Many of the essays which have appeared in times past on dentistry, in periodicals and elsewhere, are of a truly elevated order; yet, with some exceptions, they were heralds of an individual, through the instrumentality of which, more custom and more coppers were expected. A want of science, and not of mechanical skill, has been the desideratum for years. Dr. Harris, with a judgment as ripe as his views in pathology are sound, covers the whole ground, past and present, and thus secures a

distinction for our country, while his undertaking also confers an honor upon himself.

To recommend to the fraternity to which the author belongs, a work of such importance, seems altogether needless, since it would savor of a want of ambition to keep pace even with the mechanical improvements of the dental art, to be without the latest and best authority extant. Lindsay and Blakiston, Philadelphia, are the publishers. To be had at Ticknor & Co.'s, Boston.

Organic Diseases of the Uterus.—Messrs. Burgess & Stringer, New York, are the publishers of the Fothergillian prize essay, for which a gold medal was awarded in London, in 1843. The author, John C. W. Lever, M.D., is a sensible writer, who pays no regard to the tinsel of literature, but confines himself strictly to his subject. Part I. is wholly devoted to inflammation of the organ; Part II. to its specific diseases; and Part III. the malignant maladies to which it is incident. As a whole, it is a plain, well-arranged, judiciously prepared treatise, which no medical man could read without feeling that he had been instructed. We hope that the publishers may be successful in the enterprise, and that the profession will purchase and be benefited by this practical work.

Dr. Wiltbank's Valedictory.—Formerly, it was thought quite a literary undertaking to commence a course of public medical instruction by an introductory discourse. Yet it is just as necessary to commence in that manner, as to give an index or preface to a book of miscellaneous articles. Both students and instructors are strangers to each other—and by sketching out to those who are to occupy the same seats for months in succession, a general scheme of the business that is to be brought before them, they are really assisted in systematizing their thoughts, and their text-book pursuits. There is a happy influence exerted over the same minds by the parting advice of one for whom they entertain feelings of personal respect, aside from the official relations with which a professor is clothed. We are therefore gratified with these new displays of kindness—for such they certainly are—like parental cautions in regard to the future. One of these valedictories of the season, now before us, by Dr. Wiltbank, of the Medical Department of the Pennsylvania College, is not inferior to any of them. By the request of the graduates, it has been printed. If they are habitually governed by the admonitions of the author, we predict for them a brilliant professional career, and a well spent life.

The following, from its pages, is excellent. "New views of the origin and nature of disease; new theories, new remedies and new applications of old ones, are every now and then proposed to the consideration of the profession; and no matter how flattering your prospects may be, you cannot maintain your standing unless you keep yourselves in a state of qualification for your duties. The numerous journals of high character and standing almost daily issuing from the press, will afford you very material assistance in this respect. They serve to keep up an accurate and faithful record of the progress of our science, furnish you with much fresh intelligence and information, otherwise inaccessible, and direct your attention to such new books as are worthy of a place in your library. Take,

then, some of these, but always have some standard medical book on hand, read it carefully and systematically, and let not a day pass without some addition to your previous stock of medical knowledge."

Voice and Vocal Apparatus.—Messrs. Ticknor & Co. have a beautifully-printed volume passing through the binder's hands, that embraces the whole subject of voice and the mechanism by which it is produced; the injuries to which it is exposed; the philosophy of voice, its culture and preservation. In short, we understand that it is designed to excel whatever has preceded it in this particular province. The plates submitted to our examination, are fine specimens of the engraver's art. Messrs. Murdock and Russell, eminent teachers of elocution in Boston, are the authors. Whenever ready for the public, a synopsis of the contents, with a short analysis of the several subjects, will be given.

Smallpox in the Azores.—By a letter addressed to Professor Webster, of Cambridge, intelligence has been received of the extensive prevalence of smallpox the past winter at the Azores. The disease is supposed to have been introduced there by a Jew. As a general thing, the Portuguese have been exceedingly negligent of vaccination, and hence, when the smallpox once got a foothold, its devastation was prodigiously great. It is estimated that as many as one thousand persons have already died with it. At St. Michaels, death swept off those of every age, and plunged the inhabitants into the deepest affliction. Through the agency of Dr. Webster, vaccine virus was sent out, and it is presumed that the physicians must have already circumscribed the awful malady.

Yellow Fever.—The U. S. ship *Vandalia*, under the command of J. S. Chauncey, Esq., has just arrived at Norfolk from Port au Prince, with the yellow fever on board. Lieut. George Mason Hooe, J. M. Lockhart, Purser Moore, Assistant Surgeon Channing, the carpenter, sailmaker, and sixteen of the crew, died on the passage. Fifty of the crew are now down with the fever. The *Vandalia* was under orders for Pensacola, but owing to the alarming sickness on board, a council of war was held, and it was decided to run her into Norfolk, where she arrived as above stated.

Singular Case of Broken Arm.—The following curious case of assault and battery, before the Circuit Court of New York, in which the damages were laid at \$5,000, is copied from a New York paper of last week:—"On New Year's evening, 1843, there was a party of ladies and gentlemen at the house of Mrs. Leland, No. 48 Beekman street, at which Dr. Hathaway (plaintiff), and Mr. Graves (defendant) a merchant of this city, were present. Dancing commenced, one of the ladies playing the piano. Dr. H. had his partner and another lady each by the hand, his arms being extended, when suddenly his arms fell by his side, and he complained of being hurt. It was subsequently ascertained that one of his arms was broken between the shoulder and the elbow, and he charges Mr. Graves with having struck him with the edge of his (G.'s) hand, who exclaimed to him

that he had given his partner the wrong hand. A gentleman named Frink, who was present, testified that he saw Mr. G. so strike the plaintiff; while the two ladies, on the contrary, testified that Dr. H. had gone wrong in the dance (the Bolanger), and they each had hold of his hand trying to set him right, and his arms fell, and that Mr. Graves, at the time, was at the other end of the room. There was no pretence of ill will between the parties. Sealed verdict this forenoon."

Dr. Barton's Operation for the Anchylosis of the Knee-joint.—This operation—consisting in the removal of a wedge-shaped portion of bone—has been recently performed by Dr. G. Buck on a patient in the New York Hospital. The anchylosis resulted from a wound with an axe seven years previously. The leg was united to the thigh at a right angle.—*American Journal of Medical Sciences.*

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. C. C. Haddock has resigned the office of postmaster of Buffalo, N. Y. Dr. James B. Abbott has also resigned at Sandbornton, N. H.—One hundred and sixty-four degrees of Doctor of Medicine were recently conferred in the University of Penn.—On Saturday, March 6th, Dr. Bates, of Norridgewalk, Me., removed the whole right upper jaw from a patient, with the assistance of medical friends.—The *Louisa Chronicle* states that a mule dropped down dead, in consequence of being suddenly frightened by the sight of an elephant.—Dr. E. Emmons and Dr. A. J. Prime have commenced their proposed *American Quarterly Journal of Agriculture and Science*.—The association of American Geologists and Naturalists, will hold their sixth annual meeting at New Haven, Conn., on Wednesday, the last day of April.—Dr. Charles T. Jackson, of extensive scientific eminence, who resides in Boston, proposes opening a school for the study of elementary and analytical chemistry.—The Kentucky giantess, Miss Browning, now 28 years old, is 7 feet tall and weighs 300 pounds.—A young man was lately killed in Goshen, N. Y., say the papers, by an overdose of lobelia, administered by a medical pretender.—Dr. R. H. Bridgman has received the appointment of collector of Castine district, Me.—Dr. Peter Parker, the successful American surgeon, who has been many years a resident in China, has been nominated by the President, Secretary of Legation in the celestial empire.—Copland's Medical Dictionary is progressing by the Harpers in New York. The volume of it for the Massachusetts Medical Society, we are requested to say, will be ready in May.

MARRIED,—At Manchester, Ct., Dr. C. W. Jaques to Miss A. O. Buckland.

DIED,—At Richmond, Virg., Henry Myers, M.D., 39.—In Carver, Mass., Dr. Nehemiah C. Hammond, in the 25th year of his age.—In Cincinnati, Robert Moorehead, M.D., aged 51 years and 3 months.

Number of deaths in Boston, for the week ending April, 19, 41—Males, 19; Females, 22. Stillborn, 5. Of consumption, 9—scarlet fever, 5—infantile, 6—inflammation of the brain, 1—croup, 1—old age, 4—sudden, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 1—teething, 1—lung fever, 1—child-bed, 3—dropsy on the brain, 2—disease of the heart, 1—hooping cough, 2—marasmus, 1—dropsy, 2. Under 5 years, 18—between 5 and 20 years, 6—between 20 and 60 years, 10—over 60 years, 7.

Tribute of Respect to the late Dr. Sewall.—At a meeting of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, held April 11, at the Medical College, Dr. N. P. Causin in the chair, Dr. Wm. P. Johnston offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted; and the offering of which he prefaced with the following remarks:

MR. PRESIDENT,—I rise, sir, to announce to the Medical Society the death of one of its oldest and most active members, Dr. Thomas Sewall, who expired on the night of the 9th instant, after a painful and protracted illness of three weeks.

When I assert, sir, that death has taken from among us one of the brightest ornaments of our profession, I am sure that I do but give utterance to a sentiment that will be cheerfully assented to by all now present.

To talents peculiarly fitting him for the science to which he devoted his life, Dr. Sewall added a fondness for research, a habit of close observation, and a zeal and energy that knew no bounds. After a long series of years passed in the successful practice of medicine, he had reached that enviable position which, had he lived, would have rendered his services still more valuable in the capacity of consulting physician in difficult and obscure cases of disease.

With professional acquirements of no ordinary character, Dr. Sewall united, also, those amiable qualities of the heart and a kind and soothing manner which rendered him always a welcome friend at the bed-side. I need not speak of the regrets that we hear everywhere expressed for the loss of this most estimable man; the medical profession of our city generally, students of medicine, citizens in every walk of life, the rich, the poor, participate in the sorrow of his personal friends and relatives.

As a just tribute of respect to professional skill, Christian piety, and moral worth, I beg leave to offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That in the decease of Dr. Thomas Sewall the medical profession of our city has lost one of its most zealous and distinguished members, and society an exemplary Christian and philanthropist.

Resolved, That we deeply lament this sad dispensation of Providence, and, as a mark of respect for the memory of the deceased, we do wear the usual badge of mourning for the space of thirty days, and that we now adjourn to attend his funeral in a body.

Resolved, That a copy of the above resolutions be transmitted to the family of our departed friend, and to each of the papers of our city for publication.

Public Health.—Disease is a very costly thing, both to individuals and the public; and funerals are just as bad economy as any other item of unnecessary expenditure. Health and strength are a nation's best possessions in peace, and her surest defence in war. In both, the power of making great, rapid, and continuous efforts is at least as important as the possession of ingenious machinery and powerful artillery; and the time, perhaps, is not far distant when the cost of provisions and mechanical skill and dexterity shall be so nearly equalized, that superiority shall mainly turn on the strength and power of endurance of the mechanic and the soldier; and that nation which has best husbanded its living resources shall be most prosperous in peace, and most certainly successful in war.—*British and Foreign Med. Review.*